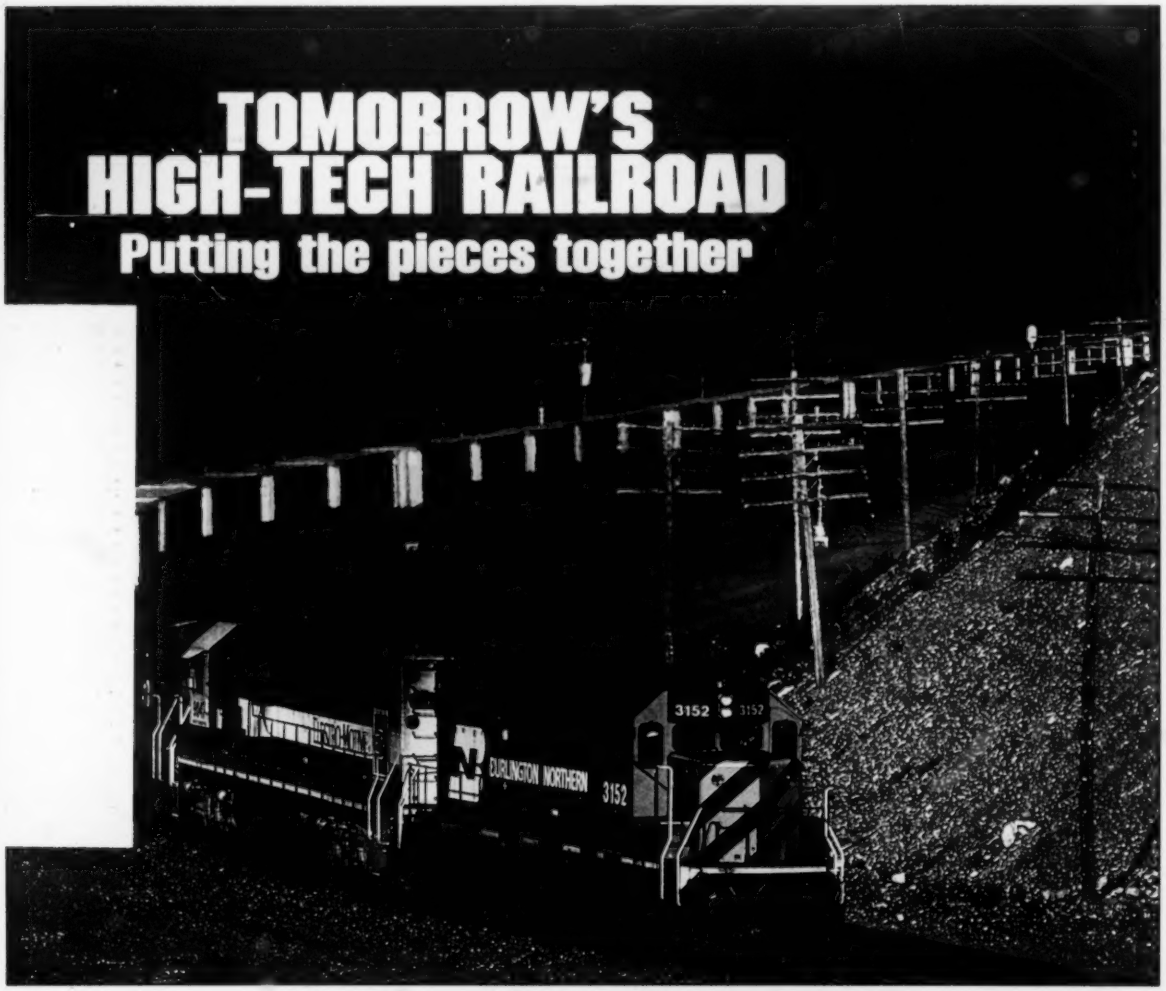
September 1990

Railway Age

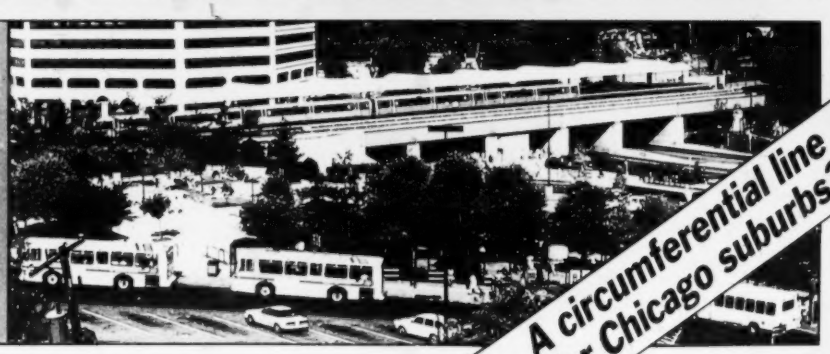
...for the new age of railways and rail transit

TOMORROW'S HIGH-TECH RAILROAD

Putting the pieces together



Rail transit's quest for quality suppliers



A circumferential line for Chicago suburbs?

September 1990

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways and rail transit

HIGH-TECH RAILROADING

Putting the pieces together.....p. 37
A new fleet takes shape .....p. 43
M/w: Coping with change .....p. 48
C&S: Easing into a new era .....p. 51

Comment

2 Inside
12 Lines on Labor
16 Watching Washington
18 Equipment Financial Trends
19 High Speed Currents
132 Perspective

60 Transit's quest for quality

Formidable obstacles sometimes clutter the route to efficient operation. The problems include, but go far beyond, getting quality products at good prices.

76 More cities look at rail

At a recent California conference on emerging commuter rail systems, new activity was reported all over the country, sometimes in surprising places.

91 Will Metra follow Sears?

Chicago has long studied a circumferential rail system. The move of thousands of Sears employees outside the city could hasten the day.

99 Itel markets a mixed fleet

It's a highly diversified fleet, no longer dominated by boxcars, and Itel is implementing a diversified marketing program to keep the cars busy.

Departments

7 Industry Outlook
8 Market Outlook
102 VTS Newsletter
110 Meetings
112 People in the News
115 100 Years ago
117 Products
122 Letters
131 Advertisers Index

Update

22 RGI scuttles Soo deal, looks to BN trackage rights
23 Symposium on train control
23 MK will acquire UP's Boise depot
23 Calgary will get new car shop
23 TT plans pool of heavy duty flats
24 Insurance group enlists in CRASH
24 ICC again studies grain-car adequacy
24 IC completes downsizing
25 Rates advance with fuel prices
25 Thrall brings in new managers
25 Quantum grows 35% a month
27 IMA is adding space and staff
27 Reliable power delivers for USPS
27 Intermodal image lags the reality
27 SFP unit pours first gold bar
27 Harmon seeking Cedrite partners
29 Crossing accidents: Fewer, deadlier
29 Knorr Bremse reunited with parent
29 NS and Union Tank win ARAM awards
29 National Railway buys Silvis shops
30 From GTW, the safety gospel
30 Conrail forms transloading group
30 Bethlehem wants to sell car division
31 Blue Line carries millionth customer
31 Amtrak woos corporate clientele
31 LIRR gets a "C" from customers
32 Grumman heads maglev project in New York
32 Chicago sees big accessibility bill
32 TGI selected for Malaysian monorail
33 DART plan avoids long-term debt
33 PAT eases the way for City Center
33 Maglev R&D: Three options
33 Task force to study transit economics
34 IG gives NYCTA a caution signal
82 Court upsets ICC's Amtrak/B&M ruling
82 Oregon LCV proposal dropped

Published monthly by the Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corporation, 345 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014 USPS 449-131, Vol 191, No. 9

Subscriptions: RAILWAY AGE is sent without obligation to all Class I railroads, regional and short line railroad, light and rapid rail transit, private car lines, industrial owners of rolling stock, utility and energy personnel in railroad management and supervision in the executive and administration departments, marketing and sales departments, purchasing and materials departments, operations, mechanical, engineering and communications and signaling departments in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Subscriptions should be requested on company letterhead. Subscription price to others: $4.00 per copy, $35.00 per year in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Foreign $100.00 (U.S. funds) additional per year for Air Mail delivery. All subscriptions payable in advance.

Copyrighted © 1990.

Second-class postage paid at New York, N.Y. and additional mailing offices.

Address all subscriptions, change of address forms and correspondence concerning them to Subscription Dept., Railway Age, 1809 Capitol Ave., Omaha, NE 68102 or call toll free (800) 228-9670. In Nebraska call (402) 346-4300.

Printed at Hughes Printing Co., 34 North Crystal St., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. Second Class postage paid by Simmons-Boardman Publishing Corp., 345 Hudson St., New York, N.Y. 10014 ISSN 0033-8826.

POSTMASTER—Send change of address forms to Simmons-Boardman, 345 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014.

Equipment

Burlington Northern: Will lease 1,200 new 48-foot domestic containers from Itel Containers International. Stoughton Trailer will build 900 and Monon Inc., 300. Delivery will be completed this fall.

Canadian National: A $40 million (Canadian) investment program announced Aug. 10 includes $33.1 million for purchase and overhaul of 683 covered hopper cars which CN has been leasing from General Electric Railcar Services and Leasing Canada; $1.5 million to install fixed bulkheads on 197 100-ton flat cars for handling Alcan aluminum sheet ingots; and $732,000 to install an acoustic abnormal-bearing detector on the Edson subdivision at Stony Plain, Alta. CN has also announced that it will acquire 500 48-foot aluminum containers and 440 chassis from Monon at a total cost of $15 million. CN will use the equipment to launch Canada's first double-stack container service for domestic traffic, in the Moncton-Montreal-Toronto corridor. Delivery is to be completed in December. CN is working on a $2 million project to obtain necessary clearances between Moncton and Toronto to handle two stacked 9-foot, 6-inch containers.

Northwestern Oklahoma Railroad: Contracted with Chicago & North Western for the rebuilding of 174 boxcars at C&NW's Clinton, Iowa, shops. The program, to be completed in November, will include installation of new end interior linings, repair and caulking of floors, sandblasting, painting and stenciling.

USSR/Finland: San Francisco-based Transcisco Industries announced that SOVFINAMTRANS is leasing 830 additional Uni-Temp equipped tank cars, bringing its total fleet to more than 1,300 units. SOVFINAMTRANS is a joint venture of the Ministry of Rail and Petro Chemicals of the USSR, HAKA Corp. of Finland, and Transcisco Trading Co. Transcisco will supply the Uni-Temp heating systems for installation on existing tank cars in the USSR and Finland. Transcisco Industries Chairman Mark C. Hungerford said the joint venture anticipates adding still more tank cars to its lease fleet, the only such fleet operating in the Soviet Union.

Metro-North: Awarded a $91 million contract to Morrison Knudsen for the supply of 39 commuter cars, which MK will build at its Hornell, N.Y., complex. Construction will begin in 1991 and is to be completed early in 1993. The contract includes an option for an additional nine to 18 cars and provides for up to $2.1 million for spare parts. This is MK's second order for new rail cars. MK is now in the engineering stage on a $208 million contract to build 256 new cars for the Chicago Transit Authority.

Metra: Chicago's commuter railroad system has been authorized to acquire, through the competitive negotiation process, 173 new cab cars and 158 new trailer cars, all with disabled person facilities; 140 refurbished Highliner cars; and 20 new M-U units. The first RFP is to go out this month.

Revenue freight carloadings

Commodity	Aug. 11 week	Aug. 4 week	July 28 week	July 21 week
Grain	26,333	26,462	25,376	26,526
Other farm products	830	896	1,066	1,202
Metallic ores	15,168	21,575	25,896	26,343
Coal	130,373	128,787	132,280	132,052
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,965	16,812	16,813	17,346
Nonmetallic minerals	10,657	9,486	9,371	9,709
Grain mill products	9,962	9,778	9,896	9,918
Food and kindred products	8,423	8,829	8,568	8,608
Primary forest products	10,033	10,041	9,996	10,207
Lumber and wood products	5,956	6,227	6,306	6,367
Pulp, paper and allied products	10,273	10,605	10,421	10,399
Chemicals and allied products	27,520	27,888	26,186	27,634
Petroleum products	5,476	5,054	5,431	5,585
Stone, clay and glass products	10,385	10,240	10,424	10,119
Coke	5,842	5,787	5,851	5,691
Metals and products	9,633	9,977	9,884	9,645
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,732	14,769	15,777	15,169
Waste and scrap materials	8,841	8,479	8,610	8,447
All other carloads	6,508	6,192	6,716	6,329
Total Cars Loaded	**335,910**	**337,884**	**344,868**	**347,298**
% change from previous year	(1.9)	2.7	7.8	3.9

		% change
Cumulative total: 32 weeks	10,797,264	1.4

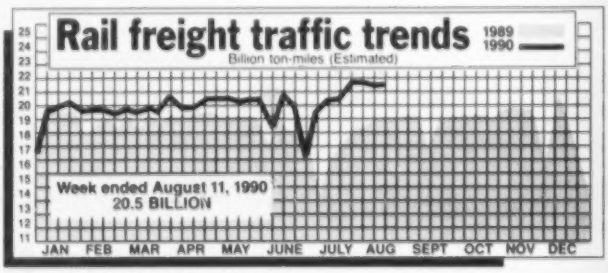
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	20.5	20.4	20.7	20.7
% change from previous year	2.0	4.6	5.6	10.7

Total:	**1990**	**1989**	**% change**
32 weeks	639.8	613.4	4.3

Intermodal traffic

	Aug. 11	Aug. 4	July 28	July 21
Trailers	61,361	65,637	65,424	66,080
Containers	55,860	57,400	57,507	52,639
Total	**117,221**	**123,037**	**122,931**	**118,719**
% change from previous year	2.6	6.6	3.8	4.7

		% change
Cumulative total: 32 weeks	3,726,933	3.8


Rail freight traffic trends
1989
1990
Billion ton-miles (Estimated)
Week ended August 11, 1990
20.5 BILLION
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Source: Association of American Railroads

Facilities

Port of Los Angeles: Awarded a $36 million contract to Morrison Knudsen for construction of a container terminal facility on 100 acres of port property. Work is to be completed in early 1992.